

9. Cost-effectiveness/cost-sharing: The overhead and administrative components of the proposal, including salaries and honoraria, should be kept as low as possible. All other items should be necessary and appropriate. Proposals should maximize cost-sharing through other private sector support as well as institutional direct funding contributions.

10. Value to U.S.-Partner Country Relations: Proposed projects should receive positive assessments by the U.S. Department of State's geographic area desk and overseas officers of program need, potential impact, and significance in the partner country(ies).

Authority

Overall grant making authority for this program is contained in the Mutual Educational and Cultural Exchange Act of 1961, Public Law 87-256, as amended, also known as the Fulbright-Hays Act. The purpose of the Act is "to enable the Government of the United States to increase mutual understanding between the people of the United States and the people of other countries * * *; to strengthen the ties which unite us with other nations by demonstrating the educational and cultural interests, developments, and achievements of the people of the United States and other nations * * * and thus to assist in the development of friendly, sympathetic and peaceful relations between the United States and the other countries of the world." The funding authority for the program above is provided through the FREEDOM Support Act of 1992.

Notice

The terms and conditions published in this RFP are binding and may not be modified by any Bureau representative. Explanatory information provided by the Bureau that contradicts published language will not be binding. Issuance of the RFP does not constitute an award commitment on the part of the Government. The Bureau reserves the right to reduce, revise, or increase proposal budgets in accordance with the needs of the program and the availability of funds. Awards made will be subject to periodic reporting and evaluation requirements.

Notification

Final awards cannot be made until funds have been appropriated by Congress, allocated and committed through internal Bureau procedures.

Dated: December 14, 1999.

Evelyn S. Lieberman,

Under Secretary for Public Diplomacy, U.S. Department of State.

[FR Doc. 99-33062 Filed 12-20-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4710-11-P

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

[Public Notice 3181]

FY 2000 Ron Brown Fellowship Program; Request for Proposals

SUMMARY: Subject to the availability of funds for FY 2000, the Office of Academic Programs of the United States Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA) announces an open competition for the Ron Brown Fellowship Program. The Bureau solicits detailed proposals from U.S. public or private non-profit organizations with at least four years of experience in conducting international academic exchange programs and meet the provisions described in IRS regulation 26 CAR 1.501c to develop and administer the FY 2000 Ron Brown Fellowship Program. Preference will be given to organizations that have placement experience at the graduate level and a demonstrated ability to conduct academic exchange programs. The level of funding for FY 2000 will be approximately \$2,500,000. Organizations are invited to submit a proposal to conduct the final selection (from a pool of well-qualified candidates), placement, orientation, monitoring, evaluation and follow-on/alumni activities for approximately 42 Fellows from Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (FYROM), Romania, Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia, Kosovo and Montenegro) (FRY), and Slovenia. Participants will be enrolled in two-year degree programs, or in one-year non-degree professional development programs (except for the one-year degree programs in law) at accredited U.S. academic institutions for study at the Masters' degree level in the fields of business administration, economics, educational administration, environmental management, journalism/mass communication, law, public administration, and public policy. Preference will be given to proposals with budgets that do not exceed \$2,500,000.

Please note: This program will not support Ph.D. studies. Programs and projects must conform with Bureau requirements and guidelines outlined in the Solicitation Package. Bureau projects and programs are subject to the availability of funds.

Authority

The funding authority for the Ron Brown Fellowship Program is provided through the Support for East European Democracy (SEED) Act of 1989, targeted to advance the democratic and economic transition of Central and Eastern Europe. In order to comply with mandates for this program, the grantee organization is required to keep track of the spending for each of the participating countries under the FY 2000 Ron Brown Fellowship Program. Funds allocated for one country should not be used to support Fellows from other countries. Specific country allocations will be provided at the time of the award.

Overall grant making authority for this program is contained in the Mutual Educational and Cultural Exchange Act of 1961, Public Law 87-256, as amended, also known as the Fulbright-Hays Act. The purpose of the Act is "to enable the Government of the United States to increase mutual understanding between the people of the United States and the people of other countries * * *; to strengthen the ties which unite us with other nations by demonstrating the educational and cultural interests, developments, and achievements of the people of the United States and other nations * * * and thus to assist in the development of friendly, sympathetic and peaceful relations between the United States and the other countries of the world."

Program Information

Overview

The FY 2000 Ron Brown Fellowship Program will provide funding for approximately 42 fellowships to citizens from Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, FYROM, Romania, FRY, and Slovenia. Fellowships will be distributed according to specified country-quotas. The goal of the Ron Brown program is to provide an opportunity for university graduates and young professionals who are selected through open merit-based competition in the aforementioned European countries to participate in quality graduate study programs at accredited universities throughout the United States. The fields of study are: business administration, economics, educational administration, environmental management, journalism/mass communication, law, public administration, and public policy. Fellowships will be awarded for one-year, non-degree professional development programs, except for one-year degree programs in law, or for two-year degree granting programs. Program

enhancements such as workshops, professional development and cultural enrichment activities, internships, alumni conferences, networking, etc. are integral components of the Ron Brown Fellowship Program and highly encouraged. Internships of up to three months for Fellows in both one-year and two-year degree programs and from three-to-five-months for non-degree professional development programs are also key components of the program. Our goal for FY 2000 is to award a greater number of Fellowships for two-year degree programs, and to attain equitable representation of the eight eligible fields while achieving wide distribution among the U.S. host universities. Fast-track placement ability is essential to enable the greater number of Fellows to start their academic program in the fall 2000. Clustering of Fellows should be avoided with no more than three Fellows at any one university. The Ron Brown Fellowship Program will not support Ph.D programs.

Guidelines

For FY 2000, as in previous years, program advertisement and participant recruitment will be the responsibility of the Public Affairs Sections (PAS) of the U.S. Embassies and/or the Fulbright commissions. PAS and/or commissions will screen applications for eligibility, arrange for TOEFL, GMAT and GRE testing where possible, conduct personal interviews, and compile a dossier on each qualified applicant. Each FAS and/or commission will compile a pool of applicants to be forwarded to the administering organization in early spring for the final selection.

Applicants are asked to develop a program plan to conduct the final selection, placement, monitoring, follow-on and alumni activities. The duration of the program should be for two academic years, 2000–2001 and 2001–2002. The program may not begin before May 1, 2000, and must be completed by December 31, 2002. Proposals should address and discuss in detail the following areas:

1. Final selection: describe in detail the process for the final selection of Fellows including method of reviewing a pool of qualified applications submitted by PAS' and/or Fulbright commissions, and specific details about the final selection panel.

2. Placement of Fellows: describe criteria for selecting host universities and measures to ensure participants' academic and cultural needs are met. A list of universities your organization

works with to place scholars should be included.

3. Notification: describe plans for notifying applicants who have been selected for an award, including timely confirmation of placement, scheduling of pre-departure orientation, and all logistical arrangements.

4. Special programs: describe provisions for ESL or pre-academic programs, if necessary;

5. Orientation: describe plans for pre-departure, post-arrival and/or pre-academic orientation programs.

6. Enrichment activities: describe arrangements for cultural and professional development activities, internships, and other program enhancements including recommendations for workshops and alumni activities.

7. Monitoring/evaluating/tracking: describe methodologies for on-going monitoring and evaluation and adjustment of program accordingly. Mechanisms for alumni networking and alumni tracking should also be detailed.

8. Alumni Activities: Over 180 Fellows have completed the Ron Brown Fellowship Program since it was established in 1994. Alumni Associations have been formed in several participating countries. Describe plans to assist the development and expansion of these fledgling associations.

9. Program Identity: Describe ways to ensure that participants and alumni identify themselves as Ron Brown Fellows or Ron Brown Alumni.

10. Personnel: proposals should include curriculum vitae of personnel assigned to administer the Ron Brown program.

Participants

Fellows will be selected from a pool of applicants with a variety of professional and educational backgrounds. Since one of the purposes of the fellowships is to promote the development of professional expertise among the future leaders of central and eastern Europe, grant recipients should ideally be in the early stages of their careers, with perhaps a few years of work experience, a demonstrated ability for leadership, a clearly expressed purpose for studying in the United States, and a commitment to return home at the end of their fellowships to share their knowledge, skills and experience in the development of their countries. Fellows must be under the age of forty, possess the equivalent of a bachelor's degree, and demonstrate fluency in spoken and written English with a minimum TOEFL score of 550 or 213 on the computer-based test (or the

ability to attain such a level following a limited ESL program prior to the beginning of their studies).

Visa/Insurance/Tax Requirements

All foreign participants must be sponsored under an Exchange Visitor Program on a J visa. Programs must comply with J-1 visa regulations and should reference this adherence in the proposal narrative. Ron Brown Fellows must comply with the two-year home residency requirement as stipulated by the J-visa guidelines. It is the expressed intent of this program that Fellows return immediately to their home country following completion of the academic and practical components of their program. Please refer to program specific guidelines in the Application Package for further details.

Administration of the program must be in compliance with reporting and withholding regulations for federal, state, and local taxes, as applicable. Organizations should demonstrate tax regulation adherence in the proposal narrative and budget.

Participants will be covered by Department of State-sponsored Medical Insurance. The administering organization will be responsible for enrolling the participants in the insurance program.

Budget Guidelines

Funding for the FY 2000 Ron Brown Fellowship Program is anticipated at \$2,500,000. Applicants must submit a comprehensive line item budget for general program costs, participant program costs, alumni costs, and administrative costs. There must be a summary budget as well as a breakdown reflecting both the administrative budget and the program budget. Please refer to the application packet for complete formatting instructions. Administrative costs, including indirect costs, should not exceed 20% of the total request.

The Bureau reserves the right to reduce, revise, or increase the proposal budget in accordance with the needs of the program.

Allowable costs for the program include the following:

- (1) General Program Costs
- (2) Participant Program Costs
- (3) U.S. Administrative Costs
- (4) Overseas Administrative Costs
- (5) Alumni Activities

Please refer to the Solicitation Package for complete budget guidelines and formatting instructions.

Medical insurance for participants will be paid directly by the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs and,

therefore, should not be included as a line-item cost in the program budget. However, a modest line-item may be included for health insurance for universities not accepting the ECA policy.

Diversity, Freedom and Democracy Guidelines

Pursuant to Bureau's authorizing legislation, programs must maintain a non-political character and should be balanced and representative of the diversity of American political, social, and cultural life. "Diversity" should be interpreted in the broadest sense and encompass differences including, but not limited to ethnicity, race, gender, religion, geographic location, socio-economic status, and physical challenges. Applicants are strongly encouraged to adhere to the advancement of this principle in the program. Please refer to the review criteria under the "Support for Diversity" section for specific suggestions on incorporating diversity into the total proposal. Public Law 104-319 provides that in carrying out programs of educational and cultural exchange in countries whose people do not fully enjoy freedom and democracy, the Bureau shall take steps to provide opportunities for participation in such programs to human rights and democracy leaders of such countries. Proposals should reflect advancement of this goal in their program content, to the full extent deemed feasible.

Year 2000 (Y2K) Compliance Requirement

The Year 2000 (Y2K) issue is a broad operational and accounting problem that could potentially prohibit organizations from processing information in accordance with Federal management and program specific requirements including data exchange with the Bureau. The inability to process information in accordance with Federal requirements could result in grantees being required to return funds that have not been accounted for properly.

The Bureau therefore requires all organizations use Y2K compliant systems including hardware, software, and firmware. Systems must accurately process data and dates (calculating, comparing and sequencing) both before and after the year 2000 and correctly adjust for leap years.

Additional information addressing the Y2K issue may be found at the General Services Administration's Office of Information Technology website at <http://www.otpolicy.gsa.gov>.

Announcement Title and Number

All correspondence with the Bureau concerning this RFP should refer to: The Ron Brown Fellowship Program, reference number *ECA/A/E/EUR-00-05*.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, CONTACT: The U.S. Department of State, Annex 44, Bureau of Education and Cultural Affairs (ECA), Office of Academic Exchange Programs, European Branch, ECA/A/E/EUR Room 238, 301 4th Street, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20547; Telephone: (202) 619-4420; Fax: (202) 619-4927; E-mail: ewingate@usia.gov to request a Solicitation Package. The Solicitation Package contains detailed award criteria, required application forms, specific budget instructions, and standard guidelines for proposal preparation. Please specify Bureau Program Officer Ms. Effie Wingate on all inquiries and correspondence.

Please read the complete **Federal Register** announcement before sending inquiries or submitting proposals. Once the RFP deadline has passed, staff may not discuss this competition in any way with applicants until the Bureau proposal review process has been completed.

To Download a Solicitation Package via Internet

The entire Solicitation Package may be downloaded from the following website: <http://www.usia.gov/education/rfps>. Please read all information before downloading.

Deadline For Proposals

All proposal copies must be received at the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs by 5:00 p.m. Washington, D.C. time on Thursday, February 3, 2000. Faxed documents will not be accepted at any time. Documents postmarked by the due date but received at a later date will not be accepted.

Applicants must follow all instructions given in the Solicitation Package. The original and nine copies of the completed application, including required forms, should be sent to: U.S. Department of State, Annex 44, Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, Ref.: ECA/A/E/EUR-00-05, Office of Program Management, ECA/XE/PM, Room 336, 301 4th Street, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20547.

Applicants must also submit the "Executive Summary" and "Proposal Narrative" sections of the proposal on a 3.5" diskette, formatted for DOS. This material must be provided in ASCII text (DOS) formatted with a maximum line length of 65 characters. These files will be transmitted electronically to the Public Affairs Sections and Fulbright

Commissions overseas for their review, with the goal of reducing the time it takes to receive their comments for the grant review process.

Review Process

The Bureau will acknowledge receipt of all proposals and will review them for technical eligibility. Proposals will be deemed ineligible if they do not fully adhere to the guidelines stated herein and in the Solicitation Package. All eligible proposals will be reviewed by the program office, as well as the Department of State's Office of the Coordinator for SEED programs and the Offices of Public Affairs and Fulbright commissions overseas where appropriate. Proposals may also be reviewed by the Department of State, Office of the Legal Adviser or by other Bureau elements. Final funding decisions are at the discretion of the Department of State's Assistant Secretary for Educational and Cultural Affairs. Final technical authority for assistance awards (grants or cooperative agreements) resides with the Bureau's Grants Officer.

Review Criteria

Technically eligible applications will be competitively reviewed according to the criteria stated below. These criteria are not rank ordered and all carry equal weight in the proposal evaluation:

1. Program Planning and Management: Proposals should exhibit substance, precision, innovation, and relevance to the Bureau's mission. Objectives should be reasonable, feasible, and flexible and proposals should clearly demonstrate how the organization will meet these objectives. A detailed agenda and relevant work plan should demonstrate substantive undertakings and logistical capacity. Agenda and work plan should adhere to the program overview and guidelines described above.

2. Institutional Capacity and Record: Proposals should demonstrate an institutional record of successful exchange programs, including responsible fiscal management and full compliance with all reporting requirements for past Bureau grants as determined by the grants staff. The Bureau will consider the past performance of prior recipients and the demonstrated potential of new applicants. Proposed personnel and institutional resources should be adequate and appropriate to achieve the program or project's goals.

3. Multiplier Effect/Impact: Proposed programs should strengthen long-term mutual understanding, including maximum sharing of information and

establishment of long-term institutional and individual linkages.

4. **Cost-effectiveness/Cost-sharing:** The overhead and administrative components of the proposal, including salaries should be kept as low as possible. All other items should be necessary and appropriate. Proposals should maximize cost-sharing through other private sector support as well as institutional direct funding contributions.

5. **Placement experience:** Proposals should demonstrate the organization's ability and experience with graduate level, fast-track placements at U.S. universities.

6. **Professional and Academic Contacts:** Proposals should demonstrate substantive staff knowledge of the relevant academic fields and professions to ensure productive engagement with professional and academic contacts in every phase of program planning and implementation, including the arrangement of internships and selection panels.

7. **Support of Diversity:** Proposals should demonstrate the organization's commitment to promoting the awareness and understanding of diversity and should include a strategy for achieving diverse group of Fellows and host institutions.

8. **Project Evaluation:** Proposals should include a plan to evaluate the project's success, both during and after the program. A draft survey questionnaire or other technique and a description of methodologies that can be used to link the outcomes to original project objectives should also be included. Grantee organization will be expected to submit quarterly program and financial reports.

9. **Alumni Tracking and Follow-on Activities:** Proposals should provide a plan for effective tracking of current and future Alumni and demonstrate the organization's willingness to provide data to and coordinate tracking with the Bureau, Public Affairs Sections and/or Fulbright commissions. Proposals may also include a plan for continued follow-on activity (without Bureau support) which insures that Bureau-supported programs are not isolated events.

Notice

The terms and conditions published in this RFP are binding and may not be modified by any ECA representative. Explanatory information provided by the Bureau that contradicts published language will not be binding. Issuance of the RFP does not constitute an award commitment on the part of the Government. The Bureau reserves the

right to reduce, revise, or increase proposed budgets in accordance with the needs of the program and the availability of funds.

Awards made will be subject to quarterly reporting and evaluation requirements.

Final awards cannot be made until funds have been appropriated by Congress, allocated and committed through internal State Department procedures.

Notification

All applicants will be notified of the results of the review process on or about March 31, 2000.

Dated: December 14, 1999.

Evelyn S. Lieberman,

Under Secretary for Public Diplomacy and Public Affairs.

[FR Doc. 99-33061 Filed 12-20-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4710-11-M

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Office of the Secretary

Aviation Proceedings, Agreements filed during the week ending December 10, 1999

The following Agreements were filed with the Department of Transportation under the provisions of 49 U.S.C. sections 412 and 414. Answers may be filed within 21 days of date of filing.

Docket Number: OST-99-6602.

Date Filed: December 7, 1999.

Parties: Members of the International Air Transport Association.

Subject: PTC23 EUR-SEA 0085 dated 3 December 1999; Expedited Europe-South East Asia Resolution 002hh Intended effective date: 1 January 2000.

Docket Number: OST-99-6603.

Date Filed: December 7, 1999.

Parties: Members of the International Air Transport Association.

Subject: PTC31 N&C/CIRC 0106 dated 3 December 1999; Expedited TC3-Central America, South America Resolution 002L; Intended effective date: 15 January 2000.

Docket Number: OST-99-6604.

Date Filed: December 7, 1999.

Parties: Members of the International Air Transport Association.

Subject: PTC31 N&C/CIRC 0103 dated 3 December 1999, Expedited Areawide TC31 North and Central Pacific Resolution 015v r-1, PTC31 N&C/CIRC 0104 dated 3 December 1999, Expedited TC3 (except Japan)-North America, Caribbean Expedited Resolutions 002j r-2, 077p r-3, 077r r-4, PTC31 N&C/CIRC 0105 dated 3 December 1999, Expedited Japan-North American, Caribbean Expedited Resolutions 001b r-5, 002rr r-6, 073hh r-7, Intended effective date: 15 January 2000.

Docket Number: OST-99-6613.

Date Filed: December 8, 1999.

Parties: Members of the International Air Transport Association.

Subject: PTC123 0083 dated 23 November 1999 Resolution 015v (r-1), PTC123 0085 dated 23 November 1999 Mid Atlantic (r-2 to r-7), PTC123 0086 dated 23 November 1999 South Atlantic (r-8 to r-20), Fares: PTC123 Fares 0034 dated 3 December 1999 (South Atlantic), PTC123 Fares 0035 dated 3 December 1999 (Mid Atlantic), Intended effective date: 1 March 2000.

Docket Number: OST-99-6627.

Date Filed: December 8, 1999.

Parties: Members of the International Air Transport Association.

Subject: PTC123 0084 dated 23 November 1999, TC123 North Atlantic Resolutions (r-1 to r-17), Fares: PTC123 Fares 0033 dated 3 December 1999 (North Atlantic), Minutes: PTC123 0088 dated 7 December 1999, Intended effective date: 1 March 2000.

Dorothy W. Walker,

Federal Register Liaison.

[FR Doc. 99-33016 Filed 12-20-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910-62-P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Office of the Secretary

Notice of Applications for Certificates of Public Convenience and Necessity and Foreign Air Carrier Permits Filed Under Subpart Q during the Week Ending December 10, 1999

The following Applications for Certificates of Public Convenience and Necessity and Foreign Air Carrier Permits were filed under Subpart Q of the Department of Transportation's Procedural Regulations (See 14 CFR 302.1701 et seq.). The due date for Answers, Conforming Applications, or Motions to Modify Scope are set forth below for each application. Following the answer period DOT may process the application by expedited procedures. Such procedures may consist of the adoption of a show-cause order, a tentative order, or in appropriate cases a final order without further proceedings.

Docket Number: OST-99-6624.

Date Filed: December 8, 1999.

Due Date for Answers, Conforming Applications, or Motions to Modify Scope: January 5, 2000.

Description: Application of Federal Express Corporation pursuant to 49 U.S.C. Section 41102 and Subpart Q, applies for issuance of a new certificate of public convenience and necessity authorizing Federal Express to provide scheduled foreign air transportation of property and mail between points in the United States, on the one hand, and points in Italy, on the other hand, via intermediate points and beyond Italy without limitation. Federal Express further requests authority to operate its services between the U.S. and Italy in conjunction with other scheduled all-cargo